(a) whether Government had some time back conceptualized a plan to construct a Highway from Agartala to the nearest town in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the plan has since been shelved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Extradition Treaty with various countries

*339. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 258 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of criminals have taken shelters in many countries and the Extradition Treaty with these countries have not yielded any results for deportation of these criminals to India; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are contemplating in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir.The Government is actively pursuing the return of fugitive offenders in foreign countries and in the last 7 years, 17 fugitive offenders have been sent back to India by foreign Governments. The Government's policy is to enter into Extradition Treaties with as many countries as possible in order to establish a legal framework for bringing back fugitive offenders.

Transfer of industries to private hands due to disinvestment policy

*340. SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state: